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Friday, April 29

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Terrorism in Tampa

Al-Arian and others arrested in sweep



Sami Al-Arian is taken into custody by the FBI.
GORDON DEMPSEY/WFLA-TV

USF Condemns, Fires Al-Arian

TAMPA - The University of South Florida fired Sami Al-Arian with a flurry of denunciations Wednesday, saying his federal indictment "confirmed" beliefs that he broke school policy and abused his role as a tenured professor.

- ▶ [Full story](#)
- ▶ [Read the termination letter](#)
- ▶ [Watch the press conference](#) 

Those Named In The Case



Name: Sami Al-Arian

Background: Born in Kuwait, a resident of Temple Terrace and a former tenured University of South Florida computer science professor. President of the Islamic Committee for Palestine, which an Al-Arian associate publicly described in 1991 as "the active arm of the Islamic Jihad movement in Palestine."

Incorporated the World and Islam Studies Enterprise (WISE), an Islamic think tank that worked with a USF faculty group to organize seminars and share libraries. Israeli officials say Al-Arian helped create and then served on a governing board for

Al-Arian Wiretap Evider Admitted Despite Critic

TAMPA - A federal judge in the S case Tuesday criticized wiretap a submitted to a secret court by cou agents but allowed prosecutors to evidence gathered through the lis

- ▶ [Full story](#)
- ▶ [USA Patriot Act](#)

Multimedia

Terrorist Links:

Attorney General John Ashcroft announces that eight people were charged with supporting, financing and relaying messages for a violent Palestinian terrorist group



- ▶ [Watch his statement](#)

Video:

02/26/03 [USF Fires Al-Arian](#)

News Channel 8 Video:

02/20/03 [Terrorism In Tampa?](#)
02/20/03 [Local Arrests](#)
02/20/03 [USF Reaction](#)
02/20/03 [Student Reaction](#)
02/20/03 [Community Reaction](#)
02/20/03 [Al-Arian's Past Statem](#)
02/20/03 [Exclusive Footage Of](#)

Graphics and galleries:

- [Jihad locations map](#)
- [The Wire: Edging Towards Co](#)

Agent's Affidavit:

A government agent says Sami organized the Palestinian Islami his home in Tampa.

- ▶ [Full story](#)

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the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ); Al-Arian denies it.



Name: Sameeh Hammoudeh

Background: Born in the West Bank, a resident of Temple Terrace and an instructor at USF. He was a former graduate student at USF who was sponsored by WISE. While a student he conducted research with the political science faculty. Hammoudeh was also an administrator at the Islamic Academy of Florida. He was an alleged member of the PIJ in the Tampa area.



Name: Hatim Naji Fariz

Background: Born in Puerto Rico, a resident of Spring Hill and a manager for a medical clinic. Fariz was an alleged PIJ member and he allegedly ran an Illinois-based charity called the American Muslim Care Network.



Name: Ghassan Zayed Ballut

Background: Born in the West Bank, a resident of Tinley Park, Ill. and a small business owner. Ballut was an alleged member of a PIJ cell in Chicago. Ballut reserved an auditorium for a 1991 rally to memorialize a gunfight four years earlier between Islamic Jihad fighters and Israelis that ignited the Palestinian intifada against Israel. The Islamic Jihad's spiritual leader, Abdel Aziz Odeh, appeared at the rally where Ballut said, "May our guns be pointed one way ... to the chest of the enemy." During a 1998 grand jury appearance in Tampa, he refused to answer questions, his attorney said.



Name: Ramadan Abdullah Shallah

Background: Born in the Gaza Strip, a resident of Damascus, Syria, Shallah is the current worldwide leader of the PIJ and a member of the PIJ's Shura Council. Shallah, formerly of Tampa, worked with Al-Arian in the Islamic Committee for Palestine and was the former executive director of WISE. He taught Middle East studies as an adjunct professor at USF six months prior to his appointment as leader of the Islamic Jihad. Shallah was appointed secretary general of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad in October 1995. By November, he was designated by the United States as a Specially Designated Terrorist.



Name: Bashir Musa Mohammed Nafi

Background: Born in Egypt, a resident of Oxfordshire, England and a professor at Muslim College teaching history and Islamic studies. Nafi was a former WISE researcher. A 1995 U.S. search warrant described Nafi as a "significant leading member" of the Islamic Jihad. He wrote much of the group's early ideology. Israeli officials claim while Nafi lived in England in the late 1980s he was a communications link between terrorists in the field and the Islamic Jihad's headquarters in Syria. He adamantly denies ever being involved with the Islamic Jihad. In 1996 Nafi was deported from the United States back to England for visa violations.

Name: Mohammed Tasir Hassan Al-Khatib

Background: Born in the Gaza Strip, a resident in the Beirut, Lebanon, he is Al-Arian's brother-in-law. He was formerly associated with the ICP in Tampa. The government says he was

▶ **Read the affidavit**

Court Documents:

The U.S. District Court, Middle [Florida], has a new section on it's track the Sami Al-Arian docket. ("Notable Cases" link on the left : page.

▶ **Follow the case**

▶ **Read the indictment**

Trial information:

[04/20/05 Al-Arian Wiretap Eviden Despite Criticism](#)

[03/03/05 Judge Cancels Al-Arian](#)

[03/03/05 Both Sides In Al-Arian C](#)

[03/03/05 A Christian Perspective](#)

[Arian \(Commentary\)](#)

[03/01/05 Jury Pool For Al-Arian P Defense Says](#)

[01/29/05 Al-Arian Moves To Hills Jail](#)

[01/15/05 Al-Arian Attorney Seeks Dismissal](#)

[12/04/04 Jihad Case Extortion Ct Challenged](#)

[12/03/04 Lawyer Involved In Al-A Extortion Charge Be Dropped](#)

[10/05/04 New Indictment Could C Trial](#)

[10/05/04 Al-Arian May Not Be Re January Trial](#)

[08/28/03 Al-Arian Gains Access 1](#)

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[02/25/03 Executive Order 13224](#)

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[02/21/03 Q&A: Sami Al-Arian hist](#)

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[02/22/03 Jihad Leader In Gaza Say](#)

treasurer of the Islamic Jihad and a member of the Shura Council, the terrorist group's central advisory committee.



Name: Abd Al Aziz Awda

Background: Born in Gabaly, Israel, a resident of the Gaza Strip and Imam of the Al Qassam Mosque in the Gaza Strip. Awda, also known as Abdel Aziz-Odeh, was a founder and spiritual leader of the PIJ and a member of the Shura Council. He helped the Islamic Jihad gain followers through his preaching at

the Al-Qassam mosque in the Gaza Strip. In January 1995, Awda was designated by the United States as a specially designated terrorist. He is believed to have left the movement in the late 1990s in a disagreement with the group's leadership.



Name: Mazen Al-Najjar

Background: He was deported from the U.S. in August 2002. He spent 3 1/2 years in jail while appealing his deportation order. His case became a rallying point for civil libertarians after federal investigators used classified evidence to argue Al-Najjar's release posed a threat to national security. A federal judge

ruled that the use of that evidence violated Al-Najjar's due process rights and an immigration judge later ordered his release, saying he saw no evidence connecting Al-Najjar to terrorism. He was not named in the original 2003 indictment, but referred to as "Unindicted Co-Conspirator Twelve." He is charged with racketeering, conspiracy to murder people outside the United States, conspiracy to provide material support to terrorists, obstruction of justice and perjury. His whereabouts are unknown. After being deported to Lebanon, he was forced out of that country. Relatives only say he is in an Arab state with friendly relations with the United States.

Source: *The Tampa Tribune*, U.S. Dept. of Justice

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How do feel about the suspected terrorist arrests in Tampa?

- ☐ Better now
- ☐ More anxious than before
- ☐ Charges are unfounded
- ☐ Not interested

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